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JAB-O-METER
TAKE YOUR SHOT
February 1: 50,63,394 doses
February 2: 48,73,824 doses
TOTAL DOSES: 1,67,80,54,629

NATIONWIDE	FEB 1	FEB 2
Fresh cases	1,67,059	1,61,386
Recoveries	2,54,076	2,81,109
Deaths	1,192	1,733

KARNATAKA	FEB 1	FEB 2
Fresh cases	14,366	20,505
Recoveries	60,914	40,903
Deaths	58	81

25% OF CANDIDATES IN U.P. HAVE CRIMINAL CASES AGAINST THEM

156 out of 615 candidates in Uttar Pradesh have declared criminal cases against themselves, says a new ADR report

CONTESTANTS FACE MURDER, RAPE CHARGES

Of the 156, six candidates have disclosed that there are murder cases against them, while 30 have cases related to attempt to murder. As many as 12 candidates have declared cases related to crime against women, while one is facing charges of rape, an analysis of affidavits filed by the candidates contesting the upcoming UP Assembly polls showed

PARTIES IGNORE APEX COURT DIRECTIONS

- Those facing serious criminal cases include 17 from SP, 15 from RLD, 22 from BJP, 11 from Congress, 16 from BSP and 5 from AAP
- The directions of the Supreme Court have had no impact on the political parties in selection of candidates in Phase 1 of UP elections, the Association for Democratic Reforms said

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CROREPATI CANDIDATES CONTESTING THE UPCOMING U.P. POLLS SO FAR

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Record public investment to spur growth, says Modi

PM counters criticism that the Budget did not have much for farmers, the middle class and the poor, says it will create more jobs

SHAHID FARIDI @ New Delhi

A day after the Budget 2022-23 was presented in the Lok Sabha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tore apart criticism that there was nothing for the poor, farmers and the middle class. In his virtual address to BJP workers across the country, Modi said the Budget has taken public investment to record levels to create more infrastructure, which will lead to faster growth and more jobs.

Highlighting the Budget announcements for farmers, Modi said the river-linking project under which ₹60,000 crore has been allocated for Ken-Betwa project will meet the irrigation needs of farmers in Madhya Pradesh. And, ₹68,000 crore has been earmarked for direct assistance to farmers under the Kisan Samman Nidhi, he added. Besides, a digital platform has been created to help farmers get the best price for their produce, he noted, adding that a separate agriculture corridor will also be created for farmers' benefit.

Modi said there is a scheme to make *annadatas* (food providers) into *ujradatas* (energy providers). Under this, farmers will be provided solar pumps through which they would be able to sell their excess power. They will also be provided with drones to efficiently handle crops. He claimed the government has made record procurement under minimum support price. The Budget has a large number of schemes for the poor and youth, the PM said, adding that over nine crore households have piped water, and 80 lakh pucca houses are being constructed for the poor. This, he said, is being done with the aim of providing housing for all.

He said the government's focus is to develope remote areas, adding that all the villages of the country will soon be connected with optical fibre cable, which will take high-speed intenet to the villages. This, he said, will open doors to development in villages. The PM said the Project Parvatmala will take government's development schemes to the remote Himalayan villages.

The Budget has laid foundation for providing growth avenues for the youth of the country, Modi said. He added that startups have been given further tax benefits and asked youth to start their own business. The digital university announced in the Budget, will soon be established and India should move towards gaming hub.

Our country is now moving towards 5G. This will help in ease of living and ease of doing business -
Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

UNION BUDGET 2022-23

SEPARATE ITR COLUMN FOR CRYPTO

Income tax return forms from next year will have a separate column for making disclosures on gains made from cryptocurrencies and paying taxes, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said. From April 1st, 30% tax plus cess and surcharges will be applied on crypto income

LIC IPO IN MARCH

Draft LIC IPO prospectus to be filed by next week, issue in March, says Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Secy to the Dept of Investment and Public Asset Management

UNDERSTANDING THE BUDGET NARRATIVE

An economist with psychological background, not a pure economist, seems to have strategised the Budget narrative, writes S Gurumurthy **P9**

Gulf widening between 'two Indias', warns Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

FORMER Congress president and Member of Parliament Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday that India has reached a dangerous place under the Modi government, whose policies have led to alienation of people and undermining of institutions on one hand, and coming together of China and Pakistan.

Speaking on the motion of thanks to President's address to the joint session of Parliament, he said, "The RSS and BJP are weakening foundation of our country, links between our people, our languages." Today, India is weaker than before. Gandhi alleged the instruments of conversation between states and people are being attacked. Tamil Nadu is removed from the decision making with its demand for decision on NEET being ignored, he said. "Farmers of Punjab can sit on dharna for one year, but you say you can die but we won't listen to you."

He said there are two competing visions of India. One is a union of languages, states, and culture. The other is the idea of a king, a ruler. "We had smashed it. But now the king is back, centralising all power. What is happening as a result is that it has alienated people. I advise you to stop. It is very dangerous. It shows lack of understanding about India," he said, and added that India cannot be ruled by a stick from the Centre.

All institutions including the judiciary and election commission are compromised, he said. "When the PM personally goes to Israel and comes back and deploys Pegasus on the people of India, it is sure to destroy the country," he said. The poor youth of the country do not have jobs, but the President's address did not have a single word about jobs. He said that in 2021, three crore jobs were lost.

All the wealth is accumulated in the hands of 2-3 people. Just because they market you on TV -
Rahul Gandhi, Cong leader

Two-year time to revise ITR comes with caveats

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

NOTWITHSTANDING Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's claim that the Budget has imposed no additional burden on tax payers, a deeper analysis of the fine print shows that the government has not only widened the tax net but also strengthened it.

TDS has become the go-to tool for the government to ensure that no one escapes the tax net. Budget 2022 has proposed TDS on sale of immovable property at 1% of the transaction value or stamp duty value, whichever is higher. Currently, TDS is applicable on the consideration value of property.

There are more unpleasant surprises in Budget 2022. For instance, allowing revision of tax return for two years is not an amnesty scheme as many thought. In fact, revision is not allowed if it leads to decrease in the tax liability, results in refund or increases the refund. Last year's Budget had introduced a provision that said if one fails to file tax returns for two years, TDS at double the prescribed rate would be deducted on salary income, premature withdrawal of EPF, TDS on cash withdrawal. It has now been brought down to one year. This means, penalties will kick if return is not filed for one year.

Cabinet rejig on cards? CM heads to Delhi on Monday

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

AMID the buzz on cabinet expansion, Chief minister Basavaraj Bommai is visiting Delhi on Monday to meet party leaders and union ministers.

BJP sources told The New Indian Express that Bommai is under pressure to reshuffle the cabinet as many in the party are eyeing ministerial berths. Though the CM is heading to Delhi on Monday, the cabinet rejig may happen only after the Assembly elections in five crucial states, the sources added. But the aspirants want it done before the polls, as they feel that they would not have enough time to settle down and work in their departments as Assembly elections in the state are due next year, the sources said. The ministry has four vacant slots.

Party leaders MP Renukacharya, Basanagouda Patil and Abhay Patil are quite vocal about the cabinet exercise. There has been talk within party circles that some senior ministers could be assigned party work, making way for new faces in the cabinet. **P6**

It has been a tradition for the CM to meet state MPs during the budget session of Parliament.... I will also meet legal experts to discuss inter-state river water disputes
Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister

ACB names Sasi, Ilavarasi, 4 jail officials in chargesheet

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

IN fresh trouble for former Tamil Nadu CM J Jayalalithaa's aide **VK Sasikala** and her sister-in-law J Ilavarasi, the ACB of Karnataka has filed a chargesheet against them and four erring prison department officials over alleged preferential treatment of the duo while serving a sentence at the Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara.

When the division bench of Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi and Justice Suraj Govindaraj took up a PIL for hearing on Wednesday, the government advocate informed the court that the state on December 30, 2021, sanctioned the prosecution of four prison department officials under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. **P5**

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE

Towing to stop in city, new system in 15 days: Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

HOME Minister Araga Jnanendra on Wednesday announced that towing of vehicles by the traffic police will be stopped in Bengaluru till a new simplified system is put in place within the next 15 days after a discussion with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

As vehicle towing in the city had come under criticism after recent incidents of alleged harassment of the public by the towing vehicle staff, Jnanendra held a meeting with top police officials on Wednesday evening.

Coming out of the meeting, he said it was decided that a solution should be evolved to stop harassment of the public.

CONTINUED ON: P2

Storm over textbook: Not ours, clarifies govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

FOLLOWING a case of mistaken identity in an alleged Karnataka textbook, the government was in a tizzy trying to locate the source of the textbook and if it was indeed published as a government textbook.

The cause of a minor storm on the internet was a picture posted by Malayalam actor Kunchacko Boban of what appeared to be a Karnataka textbook with him depicted as a postman. The actor jokingly posted on the social media that after many years, he finally landed a government job in Karnataka.

But the post in jest, which went viral, took a political turn with Congress MP DK Suresh alleging that Boban's picture is a perfect example of the education system failing in Karnataka under the BJP rule. Targeting Primary and Secondary Education Minister **BC Nagesh** and his predecessor S Suresh Kumar, the MP tweeted, "The standard of education in our state is crumbling under the BJP. Students already have a reduced syllabus and there is no supervision of government over teaching. Now the textbooks have images taken off from the internet instead of well researched report by the Textbook Prep Committee."

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the Karnataka Text Book Society (KTBS) scurried to find the source of Boban's photo and the textbook. **P5**

This is a privately published textbook from Hubballi titled 'Anchayanna'
S Suresh Kumar, BJP MLA and former Primary and Secondary Education Minister

ITC
Savlon
Swasth India
27 MINUTES OF INFECTION PROTECTION OR 25 HOURS?
DEPENDS ON THE MASK YOU DECIDE TO WEAR.
Just like the virus, masks have variants too. One of the most powerful mask variants is the scientifically designed N95 mask, or its comparable BIS certified FFP2 mask.
If we all wear these masks, we can stay protected from viruses (including the fast spreading variant) for up to 25 hours*, even in the presence of an infected person. With cloth masks, this duration drops to a mere 27 minutes#.
FFP2 masks have electrostatically charged layers that ordinary masks do not have. It's no wonder that it is recommended to use FFP2 or N95 masks.
TIME IT TAKES TO TRANSMIT AN INFECTIOUS DOSE OF COVID-19
PERSON NOT INFECTED IS WEARING
PERSON INFECTED IS WEARING
NOTHING
CLOTH MASK
SURGICAL MASK
N95 MASK (10%)
NOTHING: 15 MIN | 20 MIN | 30 MIN | 2.5 HR
CLOTH MASK: 20 MIN | 27 MIN | 40 MIN | 3.3 HR
SURGICAL MASK: 30 MIN | 40 MIN | 60 MIN | 5 HR
N95 MASK (10%): 2.5 HR | 3.3 HR | 5 HR | 25 HR
*Provided both wear N95 or its comparable FFP2 masks correctly.
#See table. From ACGIH® Pandemic Task Force Fact Sheet: Workers Need Respirators.